

Petition for Support of the Lehman Family

December, 2014

To: Commissioner Ray Campbell and County Commissioners,

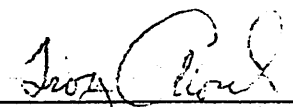
We the undersigned ranchers and agriculturalists in the Methow Valley of Okanogan County hereby express our support of Charlie and Youngme Lehman's request to the Commissioners of Okanogan County to support the Lehman family's creation of a conservation easement for their approximately 1,300 acres of private upland grazing land located between Winthrop and Twisp, east of the Twisp-Winthrop Eastside Road.

The fires of 2014 have highlighted the importance of maintaining private grazing land in the Methow Valley. We all have worked cooperatively to address grazing needs since the fire but it is clear that private land plays an important role in responding to disasters. Because this land has been in agriculture for over 100 years, a conservation easement on Lehman's land would not negatively impact the County's property tax revenues at all. By providing grazing opportunities into the future, this land in a conservation easement will ensure that it is available to support current and future ranching businesses which are an important part of our local economy.

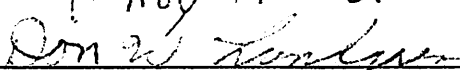
It is our understanding that the Lehman's would work directly with the Methow Conservancy to create and hold their conservation easement by passing available federal funding through the State Department of Fish and Wildlife. We express our support for the Methow Conservancy in this role because they are locally based and have been trusted partners in our agricultural community for over 18 years.

Thank you for giving full consideration to the request of the Lehman's as they plan for the future of the land in support of agriculture.

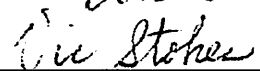
Sincerely,



Name: Troy Acord



Name: Don Lundgren



Name: VIC STOKES

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Name

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